



KANSAS CITY REGION KC CONSERVATIONIST NEWSLETTER

Summer 2013

*Where Six
Divisions
cooperatively
unite as one;
for a common
purpose.*

Fisheries

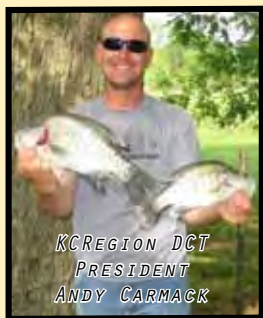
Forestry

Outreach &
Education

Private Lands

Protection

Wildlife



JAMES A. REED MEMORIAL WILDLIFE AREA

Celebrating 60 Years as Kansas City's Outdoor Destination

What was once secluded countryside is now the backyard of Lee's Summit. What was once a private getaway from the daily grind of politics for the mayor of Kansas City and later, a U.S. Senator, now belongs to the public to enjoy.

Acquisition of the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife area began in 1952 with the donation of 731 acres by Mrs. James A. (Nell) Reed in memory of her late husband who was a United States Senator from Missouri from 1911 to 1929. James A. Reed also held the office of mayor of Kansas City in the late 1800s. Mrs. Reed herself was well known and a pioneer in the women's ready-made clothing industry. Her hugely successful business, Nelly Don, was nationally known for its trademark design. She fought labor unions, kidnapping gangsters, and clothed military women serving in WWII.



Catclaw lake pictured showing Lee's Summit, Missouri in the background.

The original donation made by Mrs. Reed was to provide Kansas City residents with outdoor recreational opportunities the Reed family had enjoyed. Additional tracts were acquired to expand the scope and diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities for the 1.9 million citizens in the Kansas City metropolitan area and to demonstrate sound fish, wildlife and forest resource management practices. These additional land holdings were acquired using Conservation Department funding as well as funds from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act and Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, both administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The most recent acquisition is a 485 acre tract south of Browning Road and north of 150 Hwy in 2008. With this addition, the area has grown to 3,084 acres of woodlands, lakes, crop fields and prairie plantings.



James A. Reed and Nell Reed
were pioneering conservationists.

Prior to acquisition by the Department, much of the land here was intensively farmed for row crops, small grains and dairy products. Portions of the area were heavily grazed by cattle. Even though many old hedge rows remained, heavy row cropping and overgrazing eliminated protective ground cover and essential wildlife habitat. Consequently, soil erosion was severe and wildlife populations were very low.

Continued on page 7 Celebrating 60 Years

Amarugia Lake

renovations will improve fishing at wildlife area

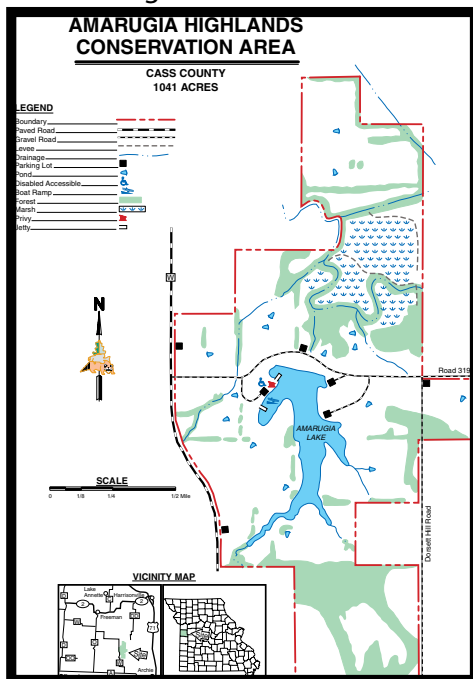
Major renovations are slated to begin this autumn for Amarugia Lake in Cass County, which will prompt closure of the 45-acre lake until the project is complete. Poor fish populations and excessive aquatic vegetation have plagued the lake at the Amarugia Highlands Conservation Area for many years, said Bob Mattucks, MDC fisheries biologist. The improvements will establish a long-term, high-quality fishery for anglers.

The lake is too shallow in many places for prime fish habitat, Mattucks said. So the lake will be closed to fishing this winter and allowed to dry out. Crews will use heavy equipment to dig out silt and deepen the lake bed. Structures that provide good fish habitat such as large rocks, gravel and brush piles will be added. Then the lake will be allowed to refill.

Largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, channel catfish and fathead minnows will be stocked in the renovated lake and allowed to grow. When the fish have reached catchable size, the lake will reopen to fishing.

The complete renovation from closure to reopening is expected to take five years. That period involves both construction and a buildup of a sustainable, high-quality fishery once the lake refills.

For more information, contact the MDC Kansas City Regional Office at 816-622-0900.



Fisheries Management Biologist, Bob Mattucks

Noodling

When I started with the Missouri Department of Conservation, there were a lot of things they didn't tell me. One thing training neglected to teach was how to make an arrest in waist-deep water and keep your duty-belt dry. Now ideally, you don't want to get in the river with the violator, but to not do so might mean leaving the violator a window to dispose of evidence. In arrests of both spear-gunners in the Ozark Rivers and noodler's in west-central MO these situations have come up. The illegal fish are stashed in the water, and the violators and illegal equipment are nearby. There is no balance of power as they have you outnumbered. There are a lot of tactical decisions to be made and often little time to make them.

After 20-some years of work experience I finally came up with the solution- Call Josh!

Now in case you don't know about noodling, maybe "noodlin" should be explained. Noodling is synonymous with hand-fishing, where individuals, mostly after large catfish, go down into the spawning holes of catfish and use their hands and hand-held gaffs to grab or gaff the catfish and pull it out.

It sure looks like fun, but Resource Science did a study on the effects of taking catfish off their nests and the results were pretty much as expected: most fry do not survive without the protection of their papa or mama on the nest.

Missouri is a state with lots of smaller streams that are vulnerable to noodling. If the stream has been channelized then it becomes even more vulnerable because the number of possible nesting locations has been drastically reduced. Noodlers have the option of going into the few holes on a channelized river that have the most potential to hold nesting catfish, and most of these holes are well known. I have witnessed noodlers take out three ten-to-fifteen pound flatheads in less than five minutes. Although they tried to make a hasty retreat that day, it wasn't their day.

Another trend that seems to be growing on HST Reservoir and other Corp of Engineer lakes around the state is the making and setting of noodling boxes. The noodlers come in at their leisure and check their boxes; all while someone

Continued on page 6 Noodling

Contact Location:

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Forestry

Control of Invasive Shrubs with Basal Bark Application

With spring rains subsiding and cooler evening air turning muggy and hot, it's time to realize that summer is upon us. Though temperatures will begin to reach into the hundreds, and ticks crawl more heavily than ever, it is no time to step back from managing the great hardwoods of Missouri. Whether you have a small track of timber or a wooded draw running through your backyard, there are ways to control woody invaders appropriately without the use of a chainsaw or other equipment that aren't ideal to use in the summer heat. A 'cooler' technique referred to as "basal bark application" is a great method to control unwanted trees and invasive exotic shrubs such as bush honeysuckle, pear, and autumn olive that tend to compete with our native plants for territory.

Before we dive into what the basal bark application is, we first need to discuss herbicides. The most important thing when buying and applying herbicides is to read and understand the label. The number one mistake I see is thinking more is better. I assure you it is not. Always apply herbicides as directed and always wear the correct personal protective equipment. Since we are talking basal treatments, there are two herbicides that seem to work very successfully: Garlon 4 and Pathfinder II. These products are very similar as they both contain the active ingredient triclopyr. The main difference is Pathfinder II is a ready-to-use herbicide and Garlon 4 needs either an oil or water emulsion added before applied.

Put simply, the basal bark application is an application of herbicide to the bark at the base of the desired tree to kill. This treatment is very effective on most deciduous trees 6 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH is measured at 4 ½ feet above the ground) or smaller. To apply this treatment, it is best to have either a hand held or back pack sprayer. The key is having a low volume flat nozzle tip at the end of your sprayer wand. Spray the lower 12 to 15 inches of the tree/shrub trunk, including the root collar. In doing so, the tree or shrub will begin to soak up the applied herbicide into its cambium layer. Once in the cambium layer the sap begins transporting it throughout the tree and eventually the tree will die off. This application can be used any time of year unless snow prevents direct contact with the lower trunk.

Join me in the invasive battle to restore your natural communities. If you have questions concerning the use of this application or managing your woodland, call your local Missouri Department of Conservation Office.

Forestry Resource Technician, Joel Taylor



Contact Location:

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Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110 (816-759-7300
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center, 1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 (816) 228-3766

Outreach & Education



Discover Nature Schools *and* Discovery Center

New school programs were developed and offered at Discovery Center for the 2012-2013 school year. Discovery Center's programs are in direct alignment with the Missouri Department of Conservation's Discover Nature Schools (DNS) curriculum which encourages students to become life-long conservationists. This curriculum is available to all Missouri educators, with Education Consultants training teachers to use instructional units, student books and science notebooks. The program provides hands-on experiences for students where they record their field notes in a science notebook. The program is supported with grant money from MDC to allow classes to obtain equipment and transportation money to participate in a field investigation. The DNS curriculum spans grades K-12 through four different curriculums.

Nature Unfolds is the kindergarten through 2nd grade DNS curriculum. Students focus on lifecycles, basic needs of plants and animals, seasons and weather. Discovery Center offers two programs on lifecycles: Acorn to Oak and Becoming Bears. Students learn about plant and animal lifecycles and seasonal changes. Outdoor Sensations is another new program for this age group, getting children outside and experiencing the natural world through their senses, just as other animals use their senses. A teacher from James Walker Elementary, a school that has participated in Discovery Center's programs since we opened, commented on the evaluation form that the program is "Much better than before."

Nature Unleashed is the 3rd-5th grade DNS curriculum. Students focus on ponds, prairies and forests. Discovery Center has three new programs to compliment this curriculum. In No Place Like Home, students explore ecosystems, then create an ecosystem complete with food chain and specialized structures. The Staying Alive program focuses on specialized structures of both plants and animals with students creating a creature to demonstrate their knowledge. One teacher participating in the program wrote, "Love how the program is inquiry-based (forced them to think), and how it is aligned to Common Core Science Standards." Children learn to use field guides and binoculars on a bird watching hike and create a bird feeder to take home in the new Winged Wonders program.

Conserving Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems focuses on water in ecosystems for the middle school students. Here at Discovery Center, the program narrows to Exploring Your Watershed which includes a hike to Brush Creek, identifying macro-invertebrates and developing a better understanding what a watershed is and how our impact on the land influences water quality.

Nature Unbound is the high school curriculum which focuses on ecology. High school students partner with natural resource professionals from various divisions within the Missouri Department of Conservation to assist with their programs out in the field.

Discovery Center Assistant Manager, Wendy Parrett



Contact Location:

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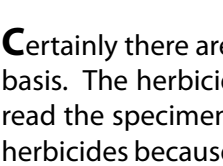
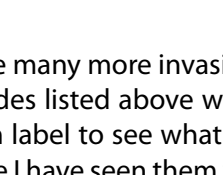
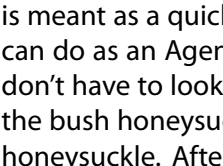
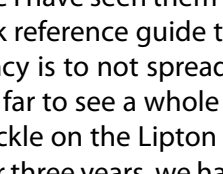

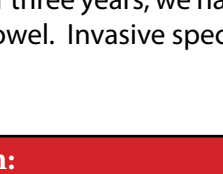
Lake City Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center, 28505 E Truman Road, Buckner, MO 64016 (816) 249-3194

Parma Woods Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center, 15900 NW River Road, Parkville, MO 64152 (816) 891-9941

Private Land

Controlling Invasive Species

A growing part of my job involves invasive species management. When I go out on initial site visits with landowners, the first thing I keep an eye out for is invasives. If a landowner wants to start a habitat project, I will not go forward with the project until they have controlled the invasives. Due to the nature of invasives, they are more aggressive, and will out-compete the native species we are trying to promote. Over the past 4 years, I have developed a close working relationship with two researchers from DOW Agrosiences. These professionals have given me a tremendous amount of knowledge that I hope to share in this article. I have assisted in their field trials, and the results are shocking. Being so close to a metropolitan area, invasives are everywhere!! I am often asked how do I kill it, or what do I need to do to control this plant. The answer is often spray herbicide on it, but there is a lot of misinformation about what to spray and when to spray it. For this reason, my DCT contribution for this newsletter will be a list of species and when to spray it.

		Invasive Species	When to Spray	Herbicide	Amount	How
		Fescue/Cool Season Exotics	March-September	41% Glyphosate	1-2 Quarts per acre	Broadcast
		Sericea	Jun-July	Pasturegard	1-1.5 pints per acre	Broadcast
		Sericea	August-September	Remedy	1-1.5 pints per acre	Broadcast
		Johnsongrass	May-August	Outrider	1-2 oz per acre	Broadcast
		Bush Honeysuckle	October	41% Glyphosate	4-6% Solution	Broadcast/ Spot Application
		Bush Honeysuckle	January-December	Tordon OR Pathway	Cut Stump	Cut Stump
		Bull Thistle	April-June	Milestone	3-6 oz per acre	Broadcast
		Teasel	May-July	Milestone	3-6 oz per acre	Broadcast
		Musk Thistle	April-June	Milestone	3-6 oz per acre	Broadcast
		Garlic Mustard	March-May	2-4 D Amine	1 Quart per acre	Broadcast/ Spot Application
		Callery Pear	January-December	Remedy Ultra and Bark Oil	1 part Remedy Ultra 3 parts Bark Oil	Basal Bark
		Callery Pear	January-December	Tordon OR Pathway	Cut Stump	Cut Stump
		Autumn Olive	January-December	Remedy Ultra and Bark Oil	1 part Remedy Ultra 3 parts Bark Oil	Basal Bark
		Autumn Olive	January-December	Tordon OR Pathway	Cut Stump	Cut Stump

Certainly there are many more invasive plants that are not on this list, but these are the most common that I deal with on a daily basis. The herbicides listed above will kill the targeted species, but they might also kill non-targeted species. You will need to read the specimen label to see what impact the herbicide will have on your particular application. I have recommended these herbicides because I have seen them work in the field. Other herbicides could work depending on timing and concentration. This is meant as a quick reference guide to the most common invasive species concerns in the Kansas City Area. The worst thing we can do as an Agency is to not spread the word that invasive species are taking over and out-competing the native species. You don't have to look far to see a whole host of invasives on your daily commute. Chuck Conner and I have been whittling away at the bush honeysuckle on the Lipton area. Three years ago, the infestation was so bad that the entire forest floor was shaded by honeysuckle. After three years, we have made a significant impact. The only reason I am telling you this story is so that you do not just throw in the towel. Invasive species management is work, but with diligence it can be rewarding.

Private Lands Conservationist, Andy Carmack

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Protection



Kansas City Agents

introduce the next generation
to Missouri's Outdoors!

One of the most rewarding aspects of any career with the Missouri Department of Conservation is the passing down of personal knowledge and a love for the outdoors to the next generation. Recently, Conservation Agents have ramped up efforts to interact with groups around the Kansas City area. Spring has always been the go-to season for outreach efforts to get kids outside, enjoying local fish and wildlife resources. In partnership with other department staff, Agents have provided numerous hands-on angling and archery experiences, Missouri mammal courses, and introduced future conservationists to the variety of rewarding careers within the Missouri Department of Conservation.

This spring Agents have reached out to over 3,000 kids in the Kansas City area, holding over 100 meetings and clinics with youth groups. Throughout the Kansas City Region, Agents host, present and visit a variety of programs designed to best reach out to local groups. Agent Daniel Schepis and Chris Blunk (Wildlife) shared the joys of fishing and hiking with special needs students from the Jones Education Center. They also introduced them to the mammals of Missouri. Lance Moore organized an "archery in the schools" demonstration for the annual Lafayette Co. Law Enforcement Day. Agents Bartlett and Schepis showed-off their patrol trucks and river boat to students in Kearney at Hawthorne Middle School's annual "careers-on-wheels" day. In Cass County Agent Shadwick continues to provide area library groups with conservation related educational projects through one of his on-going outdoor programs.

As Agents all around the region have been providing outreach services to groups in their area, some big events are still on the horizon. Agents Cole and Goreham, in partnership with several Department staff from other divisions, will participate in the annual Discover Nature Field Day event, with over 1,000 students expected to participate. Agent Fogle is currently organizing the 3rd annual Vernon County youth outdoors events. He is expecting participation from over 150 Vernon County youths. Agents throughout the Kansas City Region continue to place an emphasis on the future leaders in Missouri Conservation through outreach efforts and inter-divisional cooperation, ensuring that all young Missourians experience the rewards of our local natural resources.

Clay County Conservation Agent, Daniel Schepis



Derek Cole at the 2012 Discover Nature Field DayEvent

Noodling in Missouri

Continued from page 2

may still be fishing with a rod from the boat to mask their violations.

Perhaps the biggest trend in noodling is that it is now "cool." With the ever-expanding number of reality television shows these days, the episodes featuring hand-fishermen in other states are also increasing. These shows only broadcast the exciting stuff which makes John and Jill Doe want to give it a try too.

All MDC employees should be educated about noodling and its detrimental effects on Missouri's catfish populations. If you have any questions about hand-fishing, please call fisheries or resource science personnel. And if that don't work- call Josh!

Cass County Conservation Agent, Phil Needham



Agents Kevin Polley and Don Tiller

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Wildlife

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Continued on page 1

In 1956, lake construction began on six sites within the area and aggressive wildlife management planning began. The area officially opened to public fishing on May 28, 1960 with 129 acres of available water. More lakes were developed over the years bringing the area lake count to 12 with 252 acres of water. In 2000, a very popular trout stocking program was started on the area and has expanded to two lakes, Coot and Plover. Also in 2000, fishing was expanded to year-round. The area receives roughly 60,000 fishing trips annually.

Over 15 miles of lake access trails provide anglers fishing opportunities around most of the lakes. Many lakes have fishing docks, paved fishing jetties and are disabled accessible. Most of the fishing lakes contain good populations of largemouth bass, channel catfish, crappie, bluegill, green and redear sunfish, and bullheads; striped bass hybrids have also been stocked in several lakes. Check out the "what's biting" brochure at the Regional office before you wet a line to see what's hot. The area also provides outdoor learning opportunities with Prairie Hollow Lake, a reservation-only lake for educational group activities, and Honker Pond, a kids-only fishing spot.

Initially, a daily-use fee was established for fishing and later a daily fee was instituted for hunting and dog training. These fees were eliminated April 1, 1990. A check station operated by area personnel was maintained to issue permits and distribute Department publications. In 2011, the Conservation Department's Kansas City Regional office moved to the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area, taking over those duties and bringing new patrons to the area.



National Hunting & Fishing Day
at James A. Reed Mem WA

Rabbit hunting was one of the earliest activities allowed on the area. The first season opened in 1958 with 1,110 rabbits taken. Edge feathering, adding brush piles and fescue eradication are some of the management practices still going on to

provide better rabbit habitat. In recent years, the area has received between 600-900 rabbit and squirrel hunters per year during the 2 1/2 month season.

The area has traditionally attracted doves in concentrations large enough to provide good hunting opportunities. The first dove season was in 1961 with a few fields managed for doves, but with the popularity of the hunts, dove field management was expanded over the years. Currently, roughly 140 acres of sunflowers are planted and another 100 acres of wheat, millet and canola are manipulated to attract doves. The James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area receives anywhere from 900-1800 dove hunters annually.



Try your hand at dove hunting.

Another popular hunting opportunity is the managed deer hunts. Applying in July, hunters have an opportunity to be selected for an archery and crossbow hunt or two muzzleloader hunts. The area is open to the public during the archery and crossbow hunt but closed during the muzzleloader hunts. The managed deer hunts started in 1991 when deer densities reached extreme levels in and around the area. Over time, deer populations have been lowered to acceptable levels due to the implementation of the manage hunts.

The area maintains 15 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding, and a 2.5-mile Shawnee Trace Nature Trail for hiking. The trails wander through woodlands, prairie plantings and crop fields perfect for wildlife observation or just enjoying the scenery. Interpretive displays along the roadways throughout the area give visitors a look at the habitat and various management practices in use, such as native grass, shrub plantings and crop fields that provide year-round food and cover for wildlife. There is also a challenging 28-point archery range for target shooters and hunters looking to hone their skills.

The James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area receives an estimated 250,000 visitors annually. Whether it is hiking, bird watching, hunting, horseback riding, fishing or sightseeing, the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area has been providing a great opportunity for outdoor recreation for 60 years. Come out and enjoy the next 60 years!

Wildlife Management Biologist, Rick Bredsen

James A. Reed Memorial WA is located 1 mile east of Lee's Summit on Ranson Road, 1 mile south of Highway 50. As always, you can visit the James A. Reed Memorial WA website for an area brochure and map at www.mdc.mo.gov.

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